



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department of Health

P O BOX 2448
RICHMOND, VA 23218

M. Norman Oliver, MD, MA
State Health Commissioner

TTY 7-1-1 OR
1-800-828-1120

February 5, 2021

Dear Parents of Rising Seventh Graders:

Speaking as the Virginia State Health Commissioner and a parent, I value the many decisions you make every day to protect your child's health. I am sharing information about the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine. This vaccine prevents 6 types of cancer in both men and women.

The Virginia Department of Health, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) strongly recommend this vaccine for children at age 11 or 12. Giving the vaccine at this age is the best defense against certain cancers. For more information, I have included our HPV poster, you can visit our website www.vdh.virginia.gov/immunization/requirements/.

As your child grows, it is important to schedule a health check-up for them every year. HPV, Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis), and Meningococcal, are required vaccines for children between 11 and 12 years of age in Virginia. This means children receive these vaccines going into the 7th grade. All of these are safe and help stop future disease from happening.

As a parent or guardian, you have the right to decide if your child receives the HPV vaccine. I encourage you to discuss this with your healthcare provider. Please remember to give your child's vaccine record to his or her school.

Should you have any questions please contact Janaye Oliver, Adolescent Immunization Coordinator at the Virginia Department of Health, by telephone at (804) 864-8073 or by email at Janaye.Oliver@vdh.virginia.gov.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

E9885CE3DE124C6...

M. Norman Oliver, MD, MA
State Health Commissioner



www.vdh.state.va.us

TAKE A SHOT AT CANCER!

Protect your child from HPV-related cancers by vaccinating. The Human Papillomavirus (HPV) spreads easily, and most people don't know they have it.



90%

of cervical cancers are caused by HPV



70%

of mouth & throat cancers are caused by HPV

The HPV vaccine protects your child's future. The **vaccine...**

Is recommended with other routine adolescent vaccinations



Meningitis



HPV



Tdap

&

Prevents

6

types of **cancer**

HPV can be prevented in both girls and boys through **vaccination**. Boys and girls should complete the vaccine series by age **13**.

• Ages •

9-10
Good

Ages ✓

11-12
Perfect Timing!

• Ages •

13-14
Still Time!

• Ages •

15-26
Overdue

7th Grade



• SAFE • EFFECTIVE • LONG-LASTING •

Talk to your child's provider today about preventing cancer!

www.vdh.virginia.gov/immunization/requirements/

www.cdc.gov/HPV

VDH VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

To protect the health and promote the well-being of all people in Virginia.